

# Predatory Publishers



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Open Science Office

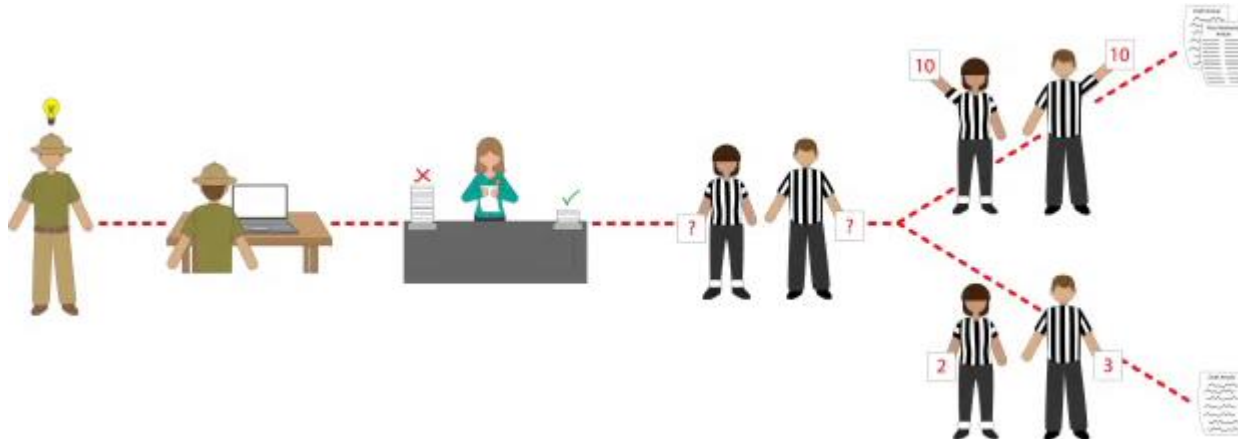
# **PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT PREDATORY PUBLISHERS**

# Different names

- "Fake Science": Wissenschaft auf Abwegen
- Trügerische Hoffnung aus Pseudo-Verlagen
- „Raubverlage“ florieren : Tausende Forscher sind auf Fake-Journale hereingefallen
- Im Kampf gegen Fake-Verlage
- Achtung, Raubverleger – wie Sie nicht auf Fake-Journals hereinfliegen
- Scheinverlage in der wissenschaftlichen Kommunikation. Verbreitung von Predatory Publishing und Lösungsansätze
- Predatory journals' reviewers mostly junior researchers from developing countries
- Stellungnahme Predatory Publishing

# Scientific publication process

- Peer review or similar scientific quality checks:



Source: The peer review process in 3 minutes [video]. NC State University. CC-BY-NC-SA 3.0 (US)  
<https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tutorials/peerreview>

- Publishing is collaborative work by authors, editors, referees, publishers, and libraries where each of them has some duty

# Publisher's duty

- Copying and distributing printed books and journals
- Making electronic books and journals available
- Possibly proof reading and editing services
- Typeset the manuscript and finalize the layout
- Marketing for the journal and the articles
- **Organizing the peer review process**

→ commercial publishers receive money for their job either by the subscribers (closed access) or authors (gold open access)



# Predatory Publishers

- Making electronic books and journals available
- **NO** peer review process resp. **faking** a peer review process or **not telling the truth** about it in advance

→ Predatory publishers wants your money w/o doing the publisher's duty!

→ Predatory publishers accept more or less everything also the scientific quality would never pass a rigorous peer review process!



# Definition and characteristics

“Predatory journals and publishers are entities that **prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship** and are characterized by

- false or misleading information,
- deviation from best editorial and publication practices,
- a lack of transparency,
- and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices.”

Grudniewicz et al. (2019): Predatory journals: No definition, no defence. *Nature*, 576(7786), 210–212.  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y>



# Avoid predatory publishers

- Give them no money
- Give them no content: Publications by predatory publishers will harm your reputation and the reputation of your institution (independent of the quality of your research in your article)
- Don't be listed on their website as an editor or supporter





# Detecting predatory publishers

Checklist and the overall advise:



<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/>

<http://thinkchecksubmit.org/translations/german/>

# Hands-on exercise

We check the Journal of Computer Engineering & Information Technology (2324-9307) and go through the points in the Think – Check – Submit checklist:

1. Ask your colleagues + publisher's contact information
2. Peer review process + publishing standards
3. Publication charges + author guidelines
4. Recognized industry initiatives

# Hands-on exercise

## 1. Ask your colleagues + publisher's contact information

- Do you or your colleagues know the journal?
  - Have you read any articles in the journal before?
  - Is it easy to discover the latest papers in the journal?
  - Name of journal: is the journal name the same as or easily confused with that of another?
  - Can you cross check with information about the journal in the ISSN portal?
- Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?
  - Is the publisher name clearly displayed on the journal website?
  - Can you contact the publisher by telephone, email, and post?

# Hands-on exercise

## 2. Peer review process + publishing standards

- Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?
  - Does the website mention whether the process involves independent/external reviewers, how many reviewers per paper?
  - Is the publisher offering a review by an expert editorial board or by researchers in your subject area?
  - Does the journal guarantee acceptance or a very short peer review time?
- Are articles indexed and/or archived in dedicated service?
  - Will your work be indexed/archived in an easily discoverable database?
  - Does the publisher ensure long term archiving and preservation of digital publications?
  - Does the publisher use permanent digital identifiers?

# Hands-on exercise

## 3. Publications charges + author guidelines

- Is it clear what fees will be charged?
- Are guidelines provided for authors on the publisher website?
  - For open access journals, does the publisher have a clear license policy? Are there preferred licenses? Are there exceptions permitted depending on the needs of the author? Are license details included on all publications?
  - ...
  - Does the publisher have a clear policy regarding potential conflicts of interest for authors, editors and reviewers?
  - Can you tell what formats your paper will be available in? (e.g. HTML, XML, PDF)
  - Does the journal provide any information about metrics of usage or citations?

# Hands-on exercise

## 4. Recognized industry initiatives

- Is the publisher a member of a recognized industry initiative?
  - Do they belong to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)?
  - If the journal is open access, is it listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)?
  - If the journal is open access, does the publisher belong to the Open Access Scholarly Publishers' Association (OASPA)?
  - Is the journal hosted on one of INASP's Journals Online platforms (for journals published in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Central America and Mongolia) or on African Journals Online (AJOL, for African journals)?
  - ...
  - Is the publisher a member of another trade association?

# Reviews about peer review process and Open Peer Review

- Reviews about peer review process
  - QOAM: <https://www.qoam.eu/>
  - SciRev: <https://scirev.org/>
- Could more Open Peer Review help to fight against Predatory Publishing? Or would they then do some faked open peer reviews?
  - To address the rise of predatory publishing in the social sciences, journals need to experiment with open peer review. (2020, Januar 10). *Impact of Social Sciences*.  
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/01/10/to-address-the-rise-of-predatory-publishing-in-the-social-sciences-journals-need-to-experiment-with-open-peer-review/>



# Black lists, white lists

- Black list: potential predatory publishers/journals
  - original Beal's List: <https://scholarlyoa.com/>
    - intransparent criteria for inclusion, criticisms
    - closed in 2017, archived version available in the InternetArchiv
  - <https://beallslist.net/>
  - <https://kscien.org/predatory.php> (not yet verified further)
- White list: possible serious publishers/journals
  - DOAJ, OASPA members, etc.
  - Scopus, Web of Science, etc.
- BUT relying only on such lists is problematic; use them in addition but not instead of any other criteria



Datei Bearbeiten Ansicht Navigation Nachricht Extras Hilfe

Abrufen ▾ ✎ Verfassen 💬 Chat 📁 Adressbuch 📁 Schlagwörter ▾



Von Haynes Alina &lt;alina@jtransport.org&gt; ☆

Antworten Weiterleiten Archivieren Junk HTML zeigen Löschen Mehr ▾

Betreff Call for Sub'mission of Your Original Research Findings - Linked Open Citation Database: Enabling Libraries to Contribute to a...

00:34

An Philipp Zumstein ★

If you hope to unsubscribe from our emails, you can [click here](#).

## American Journal of Computer Science and Technology

ISSN Online: 2640-012X ISSN Print: 2640-0111

*American Journal of Computer Science and Technology* is an open access and peer-reviewed online-based academic journal, dedicated to offer a high-quality exchange platform for the academia and industry, especially for researchers, practitioners, consultants, scholars and the others interested in the emerging issues in computer science and technology.

Dear Lauscher, A; Eckert, K; Galke, L; S...,

How is everything?

The article "*Linked Open Citation Database: Enabling Libraries to Contribute to an Open and Interconnected Citation Graph*" that you published in *JCDL'18: PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18TH ACM/IEEE JOINT CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL LIBRARIES* has impressed us greatly. **Here, we are writing this letter to invite you to contribute other original articles to our journal.**

### Contribute a Paper

For this journal, it publishes theoretical and empirical articles, including Brief Communications, Case Studies, Reviews, Original Articles etc. It only accepts articles which are well organized and written based on its requirements.

To submit your paper: <http://www.ajocst.com/submission>

#### Brief Introduction of the Platform:

**260+**

Academic Journals

**10100+**

Published Articles

**28500+**

Professionals in Editorial Team

**270000+**

Users

Our objective is to help spread latest academic achievements in related fields of computer science and technology to peers worldwide.

#### The acceptable subjects for this journal include but are not limited to:

- Software Engineering
- Circuits and Systems
- Antennas and Propagation
- Transmission and Conversion
- Wireless and Mobile Communication
- Computer Graphics and Multimedia
- Acoustics, Speech & Signal Processing
- Information Theory



# Hijacked journals



The screenshot shows the website of the Arctic Institute of North America. The header includes the University of Calgary logo and the Arctic Institute of North America logo. A search bar and social media icons are also present. The main navigation menu includes links to Kluane Lake Research Station, Data & Archives, ARCTIC Journal, Research, Education, Engagement, and About. The main content area features a large image of a snowy landscape with igloos and people. Below the image is the heading "About Arctic Journal" and a subheading "ARCTIC is North America's premier journal of northern research!". The text describes the journal's history and content, mentioning its seventh decade of publication and its focus on original research and reviews. A small image of the journal cover is also shown.




The screenshot shows the website of the ARCTIC Journal. The header includes the journal's title and a navigation menu with links to HOME, ABOUT, AIMS AND SCOPE, SUBMISSION GUIDELINES, EDITORIAL, and CONTACT. The main content area features a large image of a snowy landscape with igloos and people. Below the image is the heading "ARCTIC Journal" and a subheading "ARCTIC is North America's premier journal of northern research!". The text describes the journal's history and content, mentioning its seventh decade of publication and its focus on original research and reviews. A small image of the journal cover is also shown. On the right side, there is a section for "Journal Citation Reports" with various metrics and a list of "Also Evaluated In" journals. At the bottom, there is a section for "Latest Published Papers" with a title "Taxonomic review of the genus Diodontus Curtis (Hymenoptera)".

Source: <https://openeducationalberta.ca/advancedlibsearch/chapter/hijacked-journals/>

# (Cosmos) Impact Factor for sale

[HOME](#) [INDEXED JOURNAL](#) [SUGGEST JOURNAL](#) [REQUEST IF](#) [DOWNLOAD LOGO](#) [REVIEWER PANEL](#)



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Usual time taken to process impact factor for journal is 9 to 12 months. If someone want impact factor for his or her journal in urgency, it can be processed within 7 days, carries an evaluation fee of **INR 5000 or 75 USD**. The evaluation process takes 07 days after posting the payment. On behalf of your demand we will send you the account information.

**Contact email address: [director@cosmosimpactfactor.com](mailto:director@cosmosimpactfactor.com)**

**There is a discount on five or more journals submissions. Please contact us to know more.**

<http://cosmosimpactfactor.com/guidelines.html>

# Dubios pseudo-scientific conferences

- More or less every submission to the conference is accepted (independent of the quality of the research)
- Participants of the conference = accepted authors +  $\varepsilon$
- Accepted authors need to pay the conference fee and/or the expenses in the conference hotel
- Unrelated talks in a session, mixed audience from different areas w/o much interest in the other talks



# ICPCPM 2021: 15. International Conference on Production Control, Planning and Management

March 04-05, 2021 in Barcelona, Spain



Conference Code: **21ES03ICPCPM**

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[Conference Photos](#)

[Flyer](#) 

[Program](#) 

## The International Research Conference Aims and Objectives

The International Research Conference is a federated organization dedicated to bringing together a significant number of diverse scholarly events for presentation within the conference program. Events will run over a span of time during the conference depending on the number and length of the presentations. With its high quality, it provides an exceptional value for students, academics and industry researchers.

**ICPCPM 2021: 15. International Conference on Production Control, Planning and Management** aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Production Control, Planning and

ICPAT 2021: Psychological Assessment and Testing Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPBID 2021: Parasitic and Bacterial Infectious Diseases Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPBLPBP 2021: Play-Based Learning and Play-Based Programs Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPC 2021: Parallel Computing Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCA 2021: Polynomial Computer Algebra Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCCS 2021: Process Control and Control Systems Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCDR 2021: Pediatric Cardiac Diseases and Rehabilitations Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCEA 2021: Polymeric Composites for Engineering Applications Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCEC 2021: Pollution Control and Environmental Chemistry Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCG 2021: Psychology, Counseling and Guidance Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCL 2021: Principles of Competition Law Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCM 2021: Palliative Care and Management Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

**ICPCPM 2021: Production Control, Planning and Management Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)**

ICPCPS 2021: Protective Clothing and Personal Safety Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCR 2021: Production, Control and Regulation Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCS 2021: Production Control Systems Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCT 2021: Protective Clothing and Textiles Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPCTC 2021: Protective Clothing and Textile Composites Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPD 2021: Pharmacology for Dentistry Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPDGDA 2021: Pharmacology, Drug Groups and Drug Action Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPDP 2021: Personality Disorders and Psychiatry Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPDPM 2021: Pharmacology in Dentistry and Pain Management Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPDSM 2021: Psychopathology and DSM Conference, [Barcelona](#) (Mar 04-05, 2021)



ICPAT 2021: Psychological Assessment and Testing Conference, **Barcelona** (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPBID 2021: Parasitic and Bacterial Infectious Diseases Conference, **Barcelona** (Mar 04-05, 2021)

## All Locations



### February 2021 in Rome

Event Date: February 18-19, 2021  
Submission Due: January 06, 2021



### February 2021 in Jeddah

Event Date: February 18-19, 2021  
Submission Due: January 06, 2021



### February 2021 in Paris

Event Date: February 22-23, 2021  
Submission Due: January 06, 2021



### February 2021 in Sydney

Event Date: February 25-26, 2021  
Submission Due: January 06, 2021



### February 2021 in Buenos Aires

Event Date: February 25-26, 2021  
Submission Due: January 06, 2021



### February 2021 in Tokyo

Event Date: February 25-26, 2021  
Submission Due: January 06, 2021



### March 2021 in Rio de Janeiro

Event Date: March 04-05, 2021  
Submission Due: January 28, 2021



### March 2021 in Barcelona

Event Date: March 04-05, 2021  
Submission Due: January 28, 2021



### March 2021 in Rome

Event Date: March 04-05, 2021  
Submission Due: January 28, 2021



### March 2021 in Bangkok

Event Date: March 08-09, 2021  
Submission Due: January 28, 2021



### March 2021 in Miami

Event Date: March 11-12, 2021  
Submission Due: January 28, 2021



### March 2021 in London

Event Date: March 15-16, 2021  
Submission Due: January 28, 2021

ICPDPM 2021: Pharmacology in Dentistry and Pain Management Conference, **Barcelona** (Mar 04-05, 2021)

ICPDSM 2021: Psychopathology and DSM Conference, **Barcelona** (Mar 04-05, 2021)

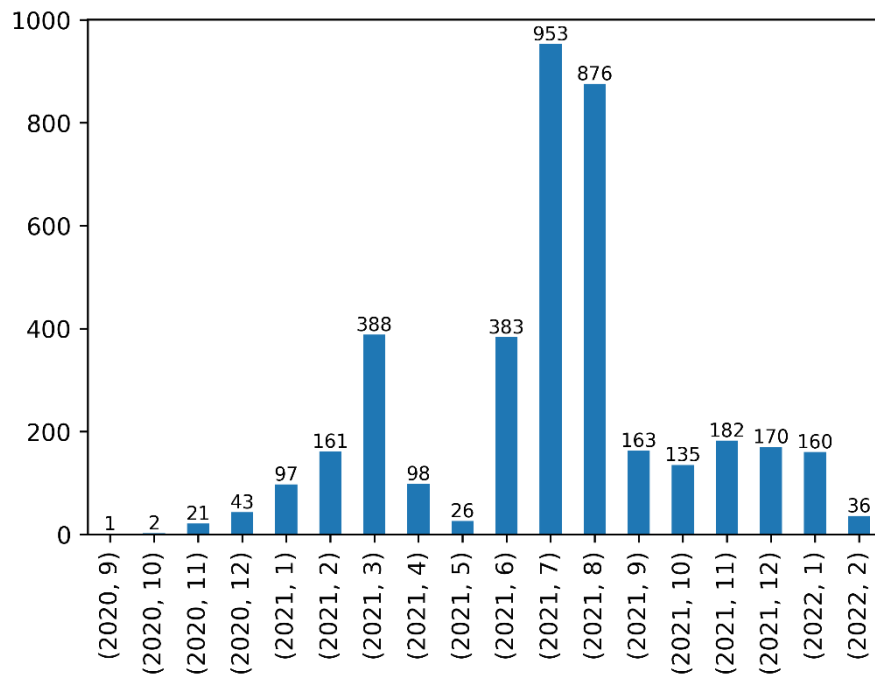
# Conclusion

- **Think – Check – Submit**
- Avoid predatory publishers for fake journals and avoid predatory fake conference organizers
- Ask your colleagues or your supervisor about the journal of any approaching so-called editor by email
- In practice there is not only serious and predatory publishers and an assessment about it can be more challenging (black/white lists work only up to some degree)
- Feel free to contact us as well for a third opinion:  
[publikationsdienste@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:publikationsdienste@uni-mannheim.de)

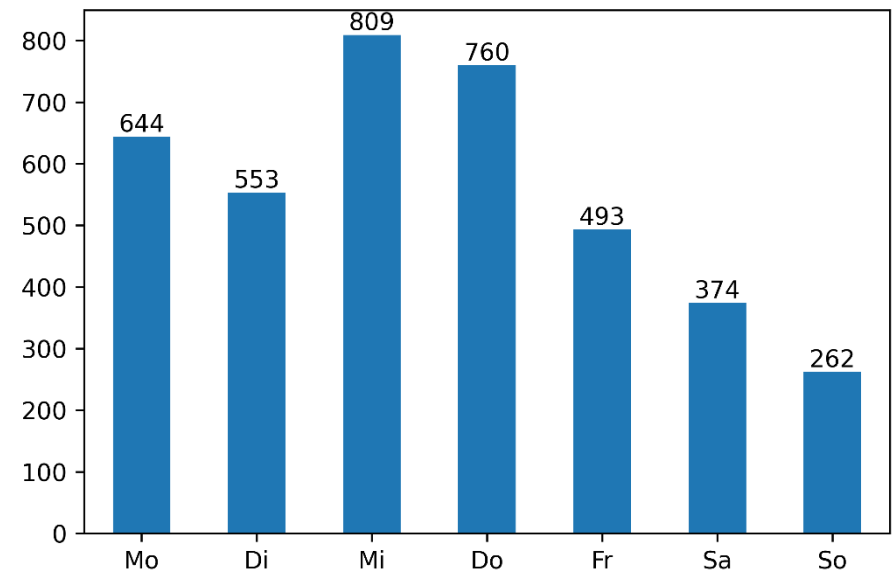
# **QUESTIONABLE BUT MAYBE NOT PREDATORY PUBLISHING**

# Questionable research practices?

Published articles in *Academia Letters*  
per month (N = 3895)



Published articles in *Academia Letters*  
per weekday (N = 3895)

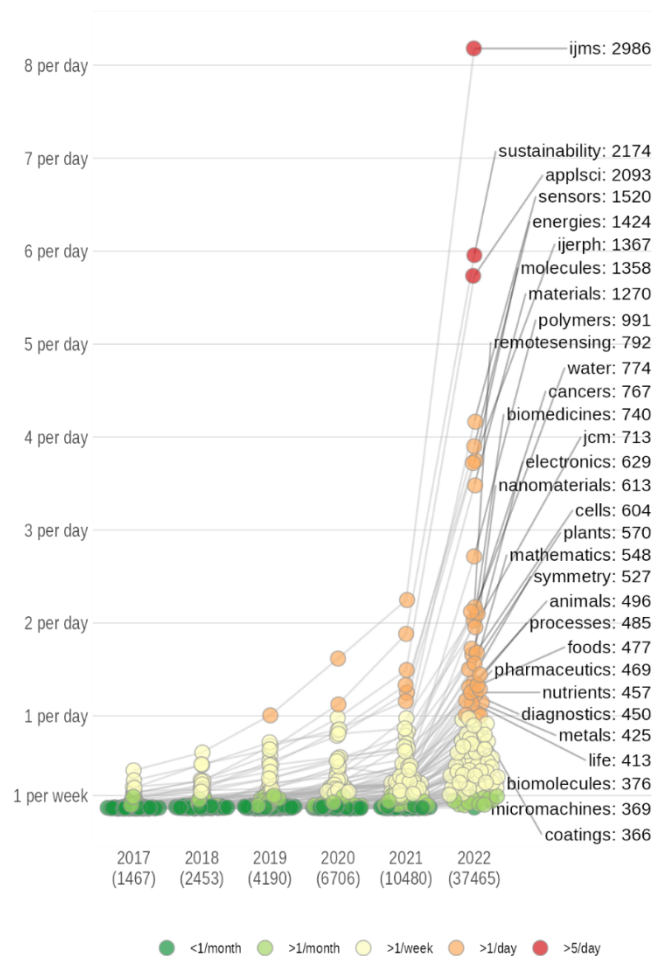


Philipp Zumstein, "Blitzschnelles Publizieren mit Academia Letters, aber sag', wie verhält es sich mit der Qualitätssicherung? Ein informationswissenschaftlicher Kommentar". LIBREAS. Library Ideas, 41 (2022). 26  
<https://libreas.eu/ausgabe41/zumstein/>

# Questionable research practices?

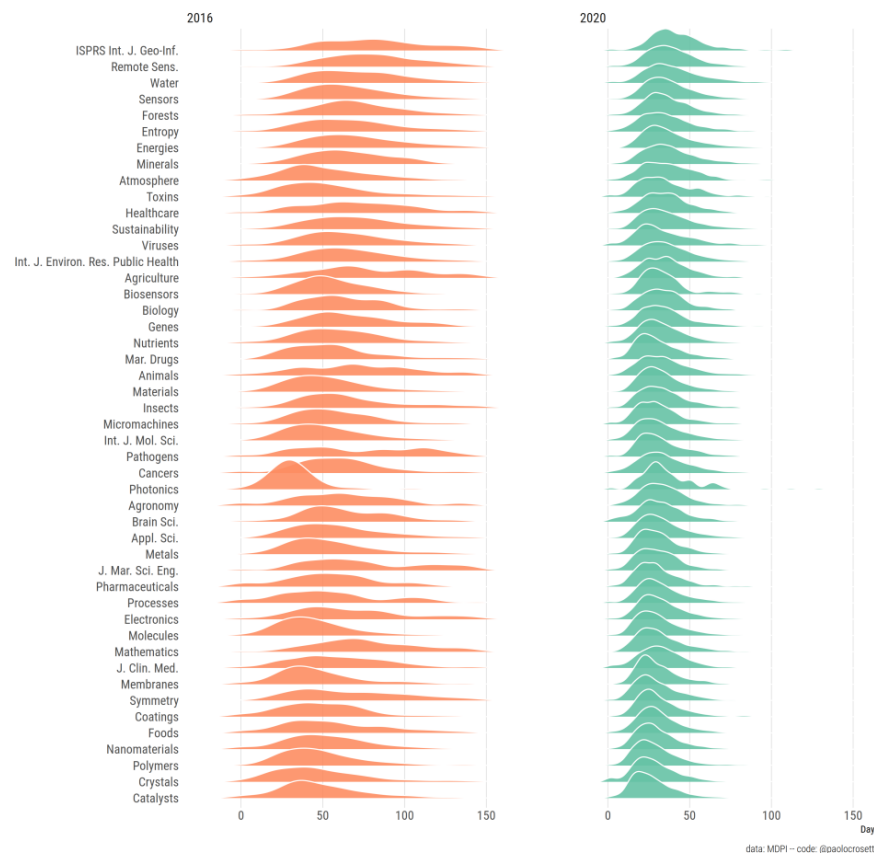
## Number of Special Issues at MDPI -- September 2022

98 journals with an Impact Factor



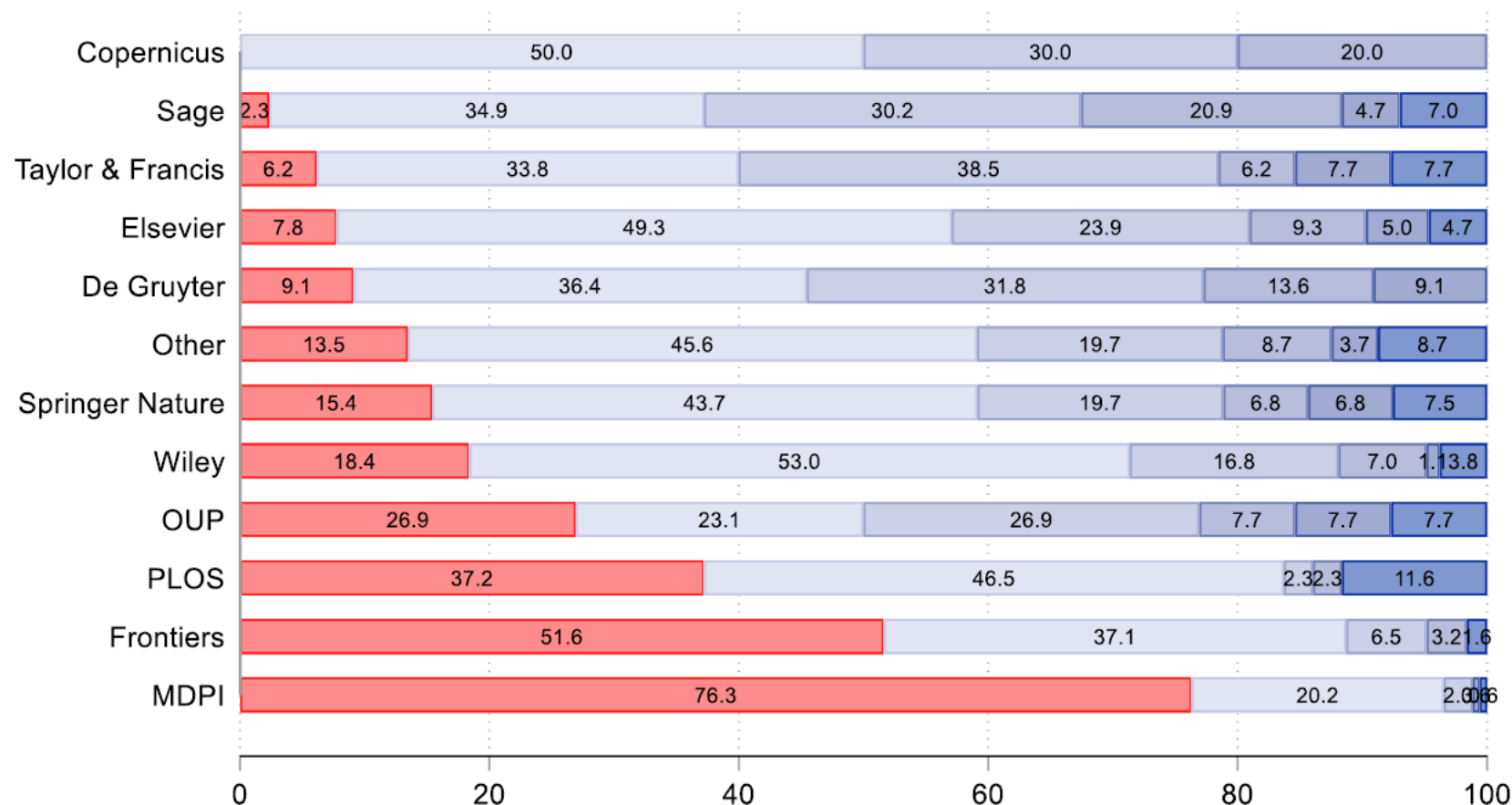
code @paolocrosetto -- data scraped from MDPI website

## Lag from submission to acceptance at top MDPI Journals



Paolo Crosetto (2021): Is MDPI a predatory publisher?  
<https://paolocrosetto.wordpress.com/2021/04/12/is-mdpi-a-predatory-publisher/>

# How much time have journal reviewers for their initial review?



# Further references and links

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<https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.3.6>
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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ras\\_VYgA77Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ras_VYgA77Q)
- Helmholtz Open Science Office: Predatory Journals und Predatory Publishing [website]  
<https://os.helmholtz.de/open-access/open-access-gold/faqs-predatory-publishing/>